

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/116 W

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R 271100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4111

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 137

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS COLOMBO 298

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, MTN, CE

SUBJECT: GSL TRADE MINISTRY OBJECTS TO PROPOSED US QUOTA/
DUTY ON SHRIMP

1. FOLLOWING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER IN WHICH OFFICERS OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OF GSL TRADE MINISTRY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTEDLY PROPOSED U.S. QUOTA AND DUTY ON SHRIMP, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING THIRD PERSON NOTE NUMBER TP/B/3(II), DATED 13 JANUARY 1976 FROM MINISTRY OF TRADE: (COMPLEMENTARY AND UNNECESSARY WORDS DELETED) QUOTE: MINISTRY OF TRADE REFERS TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN UNITED STATES SEEKING TO IMPOSE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND TO LEVY AD VALOREM DUTY OF 5 PERCENT ON IMPORTS OF SHRIMP. IN VIEW OF ADVERSE IMPACT THESE MEASURES WILL HAVE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS OF COUNTRY, MINISTRY OF TRADE WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GREAT CONCERN OVER PROPOSED LEGISLATION. SRI LANKA'S EXPORTS OF SHRIMPS AND PRAWNS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 66 PER CENT

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OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS IN 1974 ARE BOUND TO DECREASE DRASTICALLY

IF PROPOSED MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED CAUSING A
SERIOUS SETBACK TO IMPORTED EXPORT INDUSTRY. MINISTRY
OF TRADE WOULD THEREFORE GREATLY APPRECIATE IF THESE
MEASURES ARE REVIEWED BY GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND APPROPRIATE ACTION IS TAKEN TO SEE THAT DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES LIKE SRI LANKA ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY
SUCH MEASURES. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS FORMAL PROTEST
BY GSL. ACCORDING COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FURTHER
DATA TO SUPPORT POSITION IS AVAILABLE BUT SO FAR HAS NOT
BEEN PROVIDED. THEY SAID THEY UNDERSTAND THAT INDIA WAS ALSO RAISING
MATTER WITH USG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION
THAT SUCH LEGISLATION ACTION IS INDEED PROPOSED
AND CURRENT STATUS. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED NOTE AND WILL
AWAIT INSTRUCTION FOR SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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